

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 *Sub a2* 1. A method for managing delivery of video sequences of an
2 interactive program guide (IPG) over a communications network to a plurality of
3 terminals, the method comprising:
4 pre-allocating a broadcast bandwidth in the communications network for
5 common video sequences to be transmitted by a broadcast technique;
6 transmitting in the broadcast bandwidth the common video sequences to
7 the plurality of terminals by way of the broadcast technique;
8 receiving a request for a specific video sequence from a specific terminal
9 via the communications network;
10 allocating a demandcast bandwidth in the communications network for the
11 specific video sequence; and
12 transmitting in the demandcast bandwidth the specific video sequence to
13 the specific terminal via the communications network.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the common video sequences are
2 delivered using an in-band portion of the communications network.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the specific video sequence is
2 delivered using the in-band portion of the communications network.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the requests are received using an
2 out-of-band portion of the communications network.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the common video sequences
2 comprise IPG pages for a current time period.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the common video sequences
2 further comprise IPG pages for a prime viewing time period.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the specific video
2 sequence is performed using a narrowcast technique to a group of terminals which
3 includes the specific terminal.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the specific video
2 sequence is performed using a pointcast technique.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the pointcast technique comprises
2 a shared pointcast technique.

1 10. A method for managing delivery of a plurality of video sequences
2 that comprise interactive program guide (IPG) pages, the method comprising:
3 predetermining a set of video sequences to be broadcast;
4 allocating a broadcast bandwidth within a network with a finite bandwidth
5 for the set of video sequences;
6 broadcasting the set of video sequences via the broadcast bandwidth to a
7 plurality of terminals;
8 receiving a request from a specific terminal for a specific video sequence
9 which is not within the set of video sequences to be broadcast;
10 allocating a demandcast bandwidth within the network for the specific
11 video sequence;
12 transmitting the specific video sequence via the demandcast bandwidth to
13 the specific terminal to fulfill the request.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the broadcasting and transmitting
2 occur by way of in-band communications in the network, and the receiving occurs by way
3 of out-of-band communications in the network.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first set of video sequences
2 comprises IPG pages for a current time period.

1 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 predetermining a second set of video sequences to be broadcast; and
3 allocating a second broadcast bandwidth within the network for the second
4 set of video sequences; and
5 broadcasting via the second broadcast bandwidth the second set of video
6 sequences to the plurality of terminals.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the second set of video sequences
2 comprises IPG pages for prime viewing time periods

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting the specific video
2 sequence to the specific terminal comprises pointcasting the specific video sequence to
3 the specific terminal.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein transmitting the specific video
2 sequence to the specific terminal comprises narrowcasting the specific video sequence to
3 a group of terminals which includes the specific terminal.

1 17. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 predetermining a particular video sequence to be narrowcast to a group of
3 terminals;
4 allocating a narrowcast bandwidth within the network for the particular
5 video sequence; and
6 narrowcasting the particular video sequence via the narrowcast bandwidth
7 to the group of terminals.

1 18. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 receiving a second request from a second specific terminal for the specific
3 video sequence; and
4 transmitting the specific video sequence via the demandcast bandwidth to
5 the second terminal,
6 wherein the demandcast bandwidth comprises a single stream which is
7 used to transmit the specific video sequence to both terminals.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
2 one terminal from a group including both terminals finishing use of the
3 specific video sequence; and
4 continuing transmission of the specific video sequence via the demandcast
5 bandwidth.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
2 another terminal from the group finishing use of the specific video
3 sequence; and
4 discontinuing transmission of the specific video sequence; and
5 making the demandcast bandwidth available for re-allocation.